

5021066

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

SECRET/CONTROL -U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Grotewohl's Views on Election Proposal	DATE DISTR.	8 February 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. At a meeting of the "Democratic Bloc" on 1 February 1954, Foreign Minister Lothar Bolz advocated the use of legalistic arguments against the Western position at the Four-Power Conference. This was opposed by Minister President Otto Grotewohl.
2. Grotewohl's statement was approximately as follows: "We who specialize in such matters understand the legal aspects of the proposals made at the Conference, but the masses do not understand them. It is a fundamental consideration, I think, that the masses are most impressed by this simple, primitive demand which Adenauer, Eden, and all the Western Allies have so skilfully presented as their first point: free, all-German elections, to take place immediately and without restrictions. Here lies the danger for the many politically immature people in East Germany; and unfortunately the number of politically immature people is greater than the number of those who can see through the arguments of the West. This is the danger which seriously threatens our entire national struggle."
3. Statements made by other participants at this meeting indicated that the memorandum issued by the East German government on 30 January had no effect on the masses, whereas the Western demand for immediate free elections throughout Germany had made a strong impression.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	Ev	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC						
-------	----	----	------	----	------	---	-----	----	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)